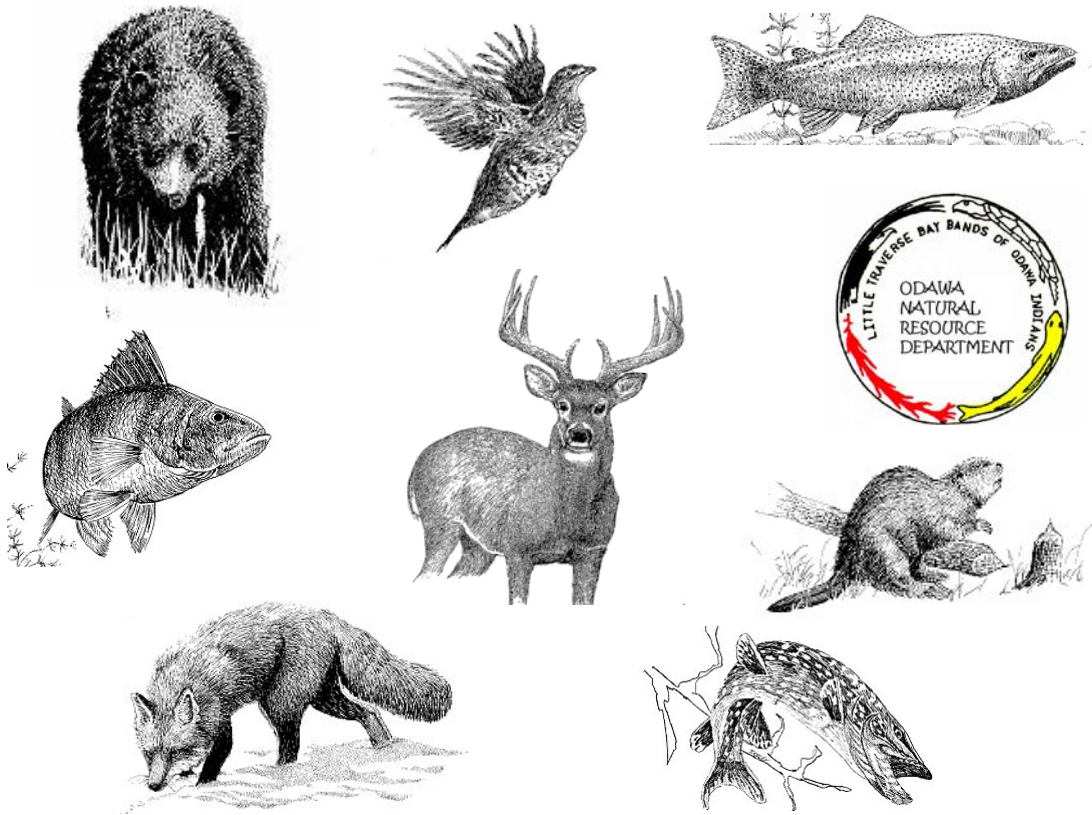

Annual Harvest Report

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians



2005-2006

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I. Introduction

The LTBB Natural Resource Department/Commission has been issuing LTBB Reservation and Off Reservation (1836 Treaty Ceded Territory) inland hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering licenses since October 15, 1997 and Great Lakes commercial captain & helper) and subsistence fishing licenses since 1994.

The inland license authorizes LTBB license holders to hunt, fish, trap and gather within the LTBB Reservation and/or within 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory (Off Reservation). The authorized tribal member must adhere to the corresponding set of LTBB regulations

Table 1. Inland License Holder Demographic

Year	Men		Women		Total Licenses Issued	Percent of Membership
1999	176	75%	59	25%	235	8%
2000	229	85%	40	15%	269	8%
2001	241	73%	91	27%	332	9%
2002	270	72%	103	28%	373	10%
2003	314	70%	135	30%	449	12%
2004	330	70%	140	30%	470	12%
2005	343	70%	145	30%	488	12%
2006	368	70%	154	30%	522	13%

according to where he/she is exercising his/her rights. In 2006 the NRD issued 522 inland licenses. Four hundred and Forty Seven (447) of those licenses were renewals and seventy five (75) were new (first time) licensees. Licenses issued have increased each year in actual number while the ratio of men to women and percent of membership has leveled off. The inland hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering licenses expire each year on January 3.

Tribal members between 18 and 54 years of age are required to pay a three-dollar (\$3.00) license fee. Tribal members 17 years of age and under and Tribal Elders 55 years of age and older are not required to pay any license fees.

The Great Lakes Commercial fishing captain license entitles the holder to operate a fishing boat and to participate fully in all commercial fishing activities (including the capture and sale of catch) within and upon the 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory waters as defined in *Great Lakes 2000 Consent Decree*. The entitled tribal member must adhere to *Commercial, Subsistence, & Recreational Fishing Regulations for the 1836 Ceded Waters of Lakes Superior, Huron, & Michigan*.

The Great Lakes Commercial fishing helper license entitles the holder to assist the holder of a Great Lakes Commercial fishing captain license in commercial fishing activities.

The Great Lakes subsistence fishing license authorizes LTBB License holders to fish for

personal subsistence (limited 100 lbs fish per day) within and upon the 1836 Ceded Territory waters as defined in *Great Lakes 2000 Consent Decree*. They must also adhere to the *Commercial, Subsistence, & Recreational Fishing Regulations for the 1836 Ceded Waters of Lakes Superior, Huron, & Michigan*.

From 1994 to 2006, an average of 13 Great Lakes Commercial fishing captain licenses and an average of 8 Great Lakes Commercial fishing helper licenses were issued annually to LTBB Tribal members. An average of 7 Great Lakes subsistence fishing licenses have been issued annually since 2001 to LTBB Tribal members (The drastic decline in subsistence license numbers from 2000 to 2001 is due to stricter reporting requirements instituted after the signing of the 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree). Commercial captain, commercial helper and subsistence fishing licenses expire annually on December 31st. Tribal members regardless of age are required to pay a twenty dollar (\$20) fee for a commercial captains license and ten dollars (\$10) for a commercial helpers license. Great Lake subsistence fishing licenses are free.

Table 2. Great Lakes License Holders

Year	Captains	Helpers	Subsistence
1994	2	N/A	N/A
1995	7	N/A	N/A
1996	10	N/A	N/A
1997	11	N/A	N/A
1998	11	N/A	N/A
1999	21	2	76
2000	23	3	100
2001	19	8	8
2002	11	2	8
2003	14	17	6
2004	16	9	6
2005	16	14	8
2006	17	8	9

This report will detail the inland and Great Lakes tribal harvest by LTBB members in 2006 via deer, turkey, and furbearer tag returns, commercial and subsistence fishing catch reports and 2005 harvest via annual license holder survey results.

II. Inland Fish & Wildlife Harvest

License Holder Surveys:

The LTBB Natural Resource Department (NRD) surveys Tribal members when they come in to renew their licenses. Members are asked to fill out a harvest survey as a part of the process for renewing their licenses. Survey questions are focused on participation in hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering activities by tribal license holders throughout the LTBB Reservation and 1836 Treaty Ceded Territory. Survey questions also inquire about what species were harvested and where (by county). See appendix A for a copy of the 2005 Harvest Survey. License holder survey data is also used to refine deer, turkey and spearing harvest estimates by combining with returned tag and harvest report data. Additionally, the survey is commonly used as a sounding board for management priorities for the Department. Tribal members are also encouraged to fill out surveys and provide input at the LTBB Natural Resource Commission Annual Hunting and Fishing Meeting.

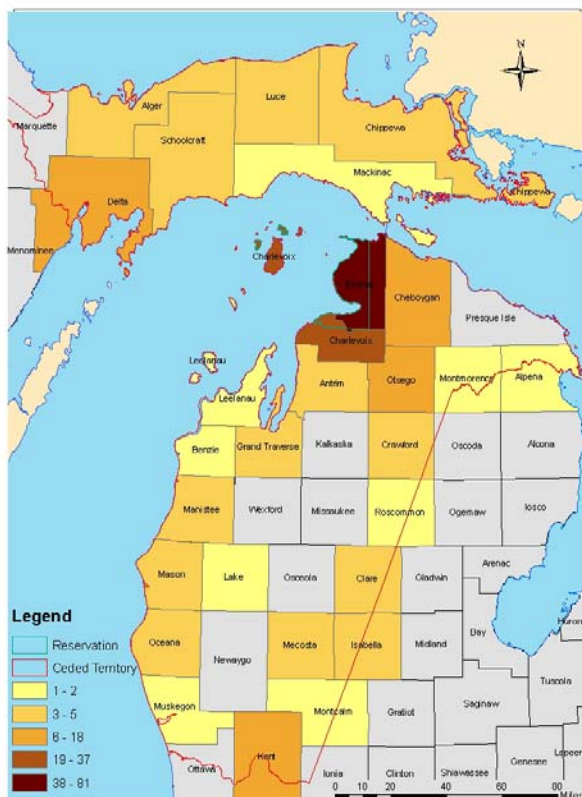
The LTBB Natural Resource Department renewed four hundred and forty seven (447) inland hunting and fishing licenses in 2006. Two hundred and ninety two (292) surveys were completed for a return rate of 65%. Of the surveys completed 23% were female and 71% male.

Five Most Harvested Fish

A pie chart titled "Five Most Harvested Fish" showing the distribution of harvest for five fish species. The chart is divided into five colored slices: light blue for Perch (43%), dark red for Bluegill (36%), green for Bass (8%), blue for Smelt (7%), and orange for Walleye (6%). Each slice is labeled with the fish name and its percentage, with a line pointing to the corresponding slice.

Fish Species	Percentage
Perch	43%
Bluegill	36%
Bass	8%
Smelt	7%
Walleye	6%

Man 1. Counties Fished

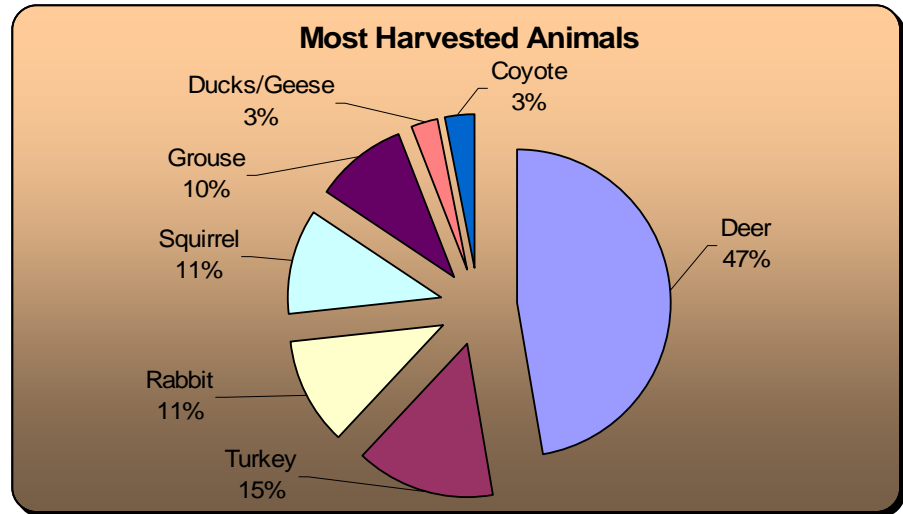


walleye, bass and smelt and the five species harvested the most using either a spear, hands, trotline or dip net were walleye, salmon, pike, steelhead and sucker.

There was reported fishing harvest in 28 of the 38 counties found within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Emmet County had the highest number of tribal members reporting that it was the county they “most frequently fished,” followed by Charlevoix County and Cheboygan County. The vast majority of LTBB members are exercising their Inland Article 13 rights on or very near to the LTBB Reservation (see Map 1.) The remainder of those who responded fished throughout several counties within the Ceded Territory.

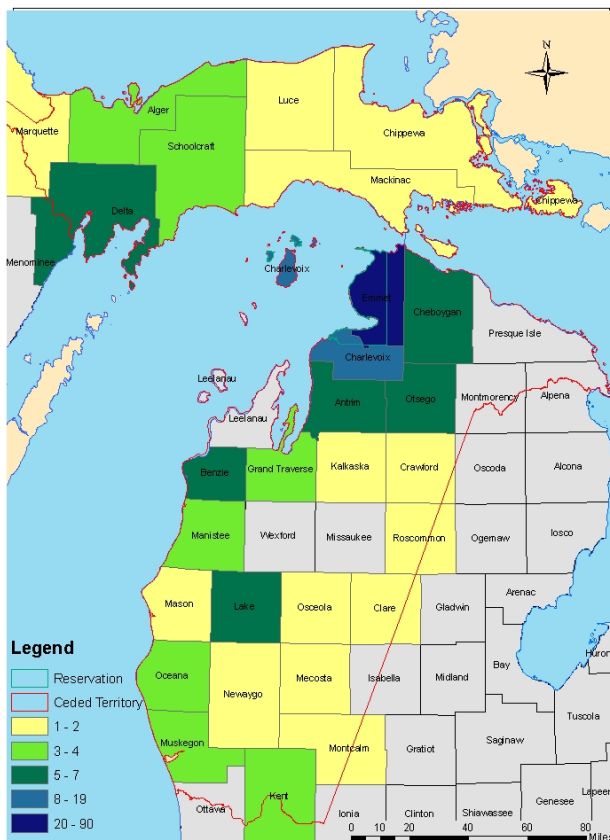
The next section of the survey, questions 7-10, was comprised of questions designed to determine whether the member hunted, what the member hunted, whether or not they were successful in harvesting any animals and if successful how many they harvested.

Seventy two percent (72%) of those surveyed reported hunting under their tribal license during 2005. The species cited as being harvested most often were deer, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, ducks/geese and coyotes. Tribal harvest tags are required for deer and turkey. The results of those specific harvests will be covered more in depth in the next section.



There was reported hunting in 28 of the 38 counties found within the 1836 Ceded Territory. Sixty percent (60%) of the total survey respondents indicated that they had “hunted most frequently” in either Emmet or Charlevoix with Cheboygan County coming at a distant third. Emmet County had the highest amount of tribal hunters of all counties. Again, a majority of the hunting activity occurs on or very near the Reservation.

Map 2. Counties Hunted

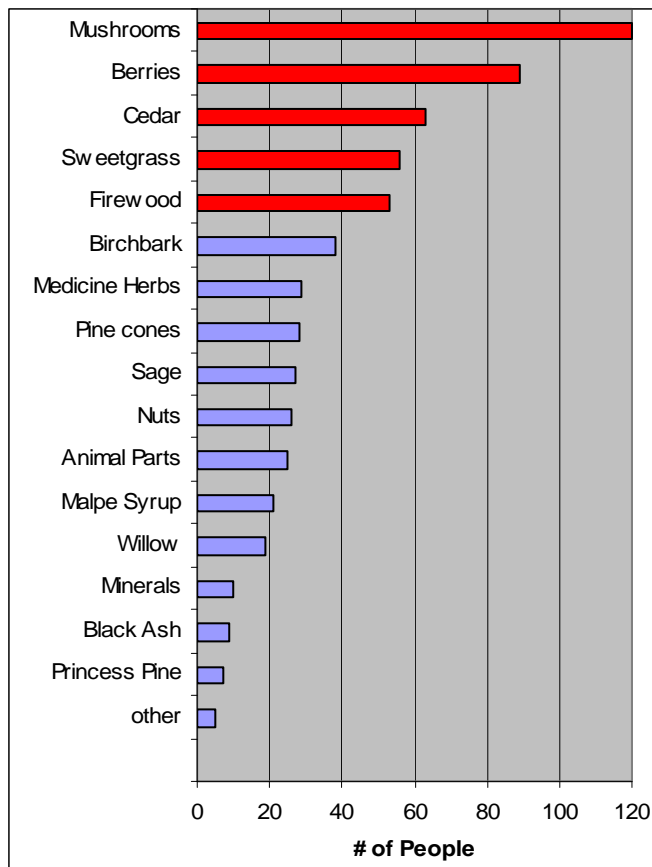


The last three sections of the annual license holder survey deals with activities related to trapping (questions 11 and 12), migratory bird (questions 14 and 16) hunting and gathering (question 13). Very few survey respondents indicated trapping (8) or migratory bird hunting (15) as activities they engaged in during the 2005 season. Those that did trap listed fox, raccoon and muskrat as the species they harvested the most and those that did migratory bird hunt listed Canadian geese, woodcock, wood ducks and mallard ducks, as



the species they harvested the most.

A larger segment, over 50%, of the survey respondents listed gathering as an activity they engaged in during the 2005 season. Tribal members gather plants and plant materials for a variety of reasons including, subsistence, medicinal or cultural purposes. The list of materials and vegetation gathered was quite varied however the top five items gathered most by the survey respondents in 2005 were mushrooms, berries, cedar, sweet grass and firewood respectively.



Deer Harvest Results:

All LTBB members who hunt deer are required to possess a valid LTBB Inland Hunting and Fishing License along with deer harvest tags when hunting. A harvest tag must be immediately affixed to each deer harvested. Tribal members are then further required to submit those harvest tags, whether filled or not, to the Natural Resources Department by February 1st following the end (closure) of the deer seasons. Three hundred and five tribal members were issued deer tags for the 2006 season. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the deer tags issued in 2005 were returned.

The LTBB deer bag limit for 2006 was three (3) does and two (2) bucks.

The seasons for 2006 were as follows:

- Early Firearm Youth Hunt- Last seven days of September.
- Archery- October 1-January 3
- Weapon of Choice (rifle, muzzleloader, bow, crossbow) - November 1- January 3

LTBB hunters harvested deer through the use of a bow, muzzleloader and firearms, the vast majority of the deer are harvested through the use of a firearm.

Eighty-two percent (82%) of the total harvest in 2006 was achieved through the use of a firearm. The Department and Commission also issued three special use permits for deer throughout the 2005 year. One of the permits was issued for annual LTBB

Traditional Pow-wow, one was issued for the LTBB Health Department's "Better Choice Camp" and one permit was issued for a Ghost Supper. None of the permittees were successful in harvesting a deer.

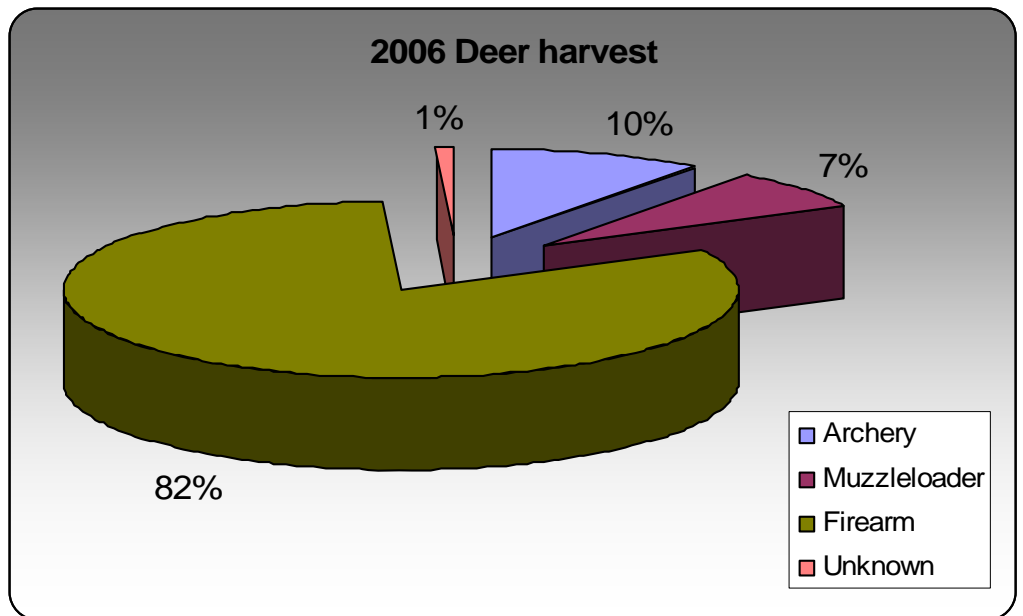


Table 4. LTBB Reported Deer Harvest.

Year	Tags	Hunters	Harvest	Bucks	Does	Percent of License Holders
1999	N/A	134	26	10	16	57%
2000	388	192	51	23	28	71%
2001	470	211	58	23	35	64%
2002	770	221	96	64	32	59%
2003	617	278	158	49	102	62%
2004	619	268	124	45	79	57%
2005	654	284	168	80	88	58%
2006	687	305	142	75	67	58%

The preliminary Little Traverse Bay Bands' deer harvest in 2006 is 142 deer with 305 Tribal members receiving tags to hunt deer. The reported 2006 harvest is a 15% decrease from the 2005 harvest yet a large amount (60%) of tags currently are un-retuned. Total reported LTBB deer harvest from 1999 to 2005 is approximately 806 with the average annual deer harvest being 101.

On average, antler-less deer comprised 55% of the harvest with the balance, 45% being antlered deer. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the LTBB inland hunting fishing license holders hunted deer in 2006.

Turkey Harvest Results:

Tribal regulations require tribal members to obtain harvest tags in order to hunt wild turkey. Tribal members are further required to return those tags to the NRD in the same fashion as the deer tags. There are two (2) separate seasons for wild turkey, a spring and fall season. The spring season is April 15-May 31 and the fall is October 1- November 14. Tribal members are allowed to harvest two (2) birds of either sex in the fall season and two (2) adult males with visible beards during the spring season. During the 2006 seasons there were eight (8) turkeys harvested in the spring and four (4) turkeys harvested in the fall. Tribal members have reported harvesting a total of seventy-four (74) turkeys from both the fall and spring seasons since the Tribe began issuing harvest tags in 1998. The Department and Commission issued no special use permits for turkey in 2006.

Table 6. LTBB Turkey & Furbearer Harvest.

Year	Turkey		Furbearer		
	Spring	Fall	Bobcat	Otter	Other
1998	6	4	0	0	0
1999	2	7	1	0	0
2000	3	1	0	0	0
2001	3	1	0	0	0
2002	2	3	0	0	0
2003	4	7	2	0	0
2004	13	6	1	0	0
2005	8	5	0	0	0
2006	8	4	0	0	0

Furbearer Harvest Results:

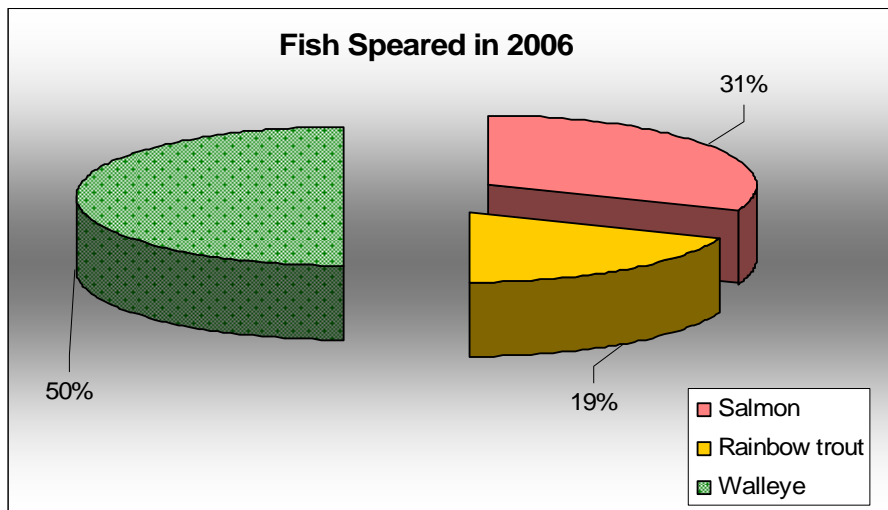
Tribal regulations define furbearers as *furbearing animals including coyote, red fox, gray fox, bobcat, beaver, otter, muskrat, mink, weasel, skunk, raccoon, badger, wolf, cougar, pine martin, fisher and opossum*. Tribal members may trap or hunt approved furbearers species. Seasons and bag limits differ by species and geographic location. Tribal regulations prohibit the harvest of any wolves or cougar.

The 2006 Tribal regulations require all bobcat, badger or otter either shot or trapped to be presented to a biological staff member within 72 hours of being taken for inspection and registration. If the tribal member wishes to transport an otter or bobcat out of the United States, federal law requires the shipped hide to have a Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) tag. Currently the LTBB does not have the authority to issue such tags and thus the tags must be obtained through other methods. However, the Natural Resource Department is working toward this and hopes to have the authority to issue CITES tags by the end of the year.

Furbearer harvest by the LTBB has been minimal and negligible at best. In 2006 there was no reported harvest of any bobcat, badger or otter.

Spearing, Bow Fishing, Dip net, Trotline and Hand Capture:

Tribal regulations do allow tribal members to fish with a spear on select streams within the Reservation and Ceded Territory (see tribal regulations for more detail). Tribal members involved in spearing, bow fishing, dip net, trotline or hand capture are required to fill out and submit harvest reports to the department within seven days of harvest. Five tribal members reported harvesting sixteen (16) salmon, twenty-six (26) walleye and fourteen (14) rainbow trout during the 2006 season. The number of



returned harvest reports, fishers and total number of fish harvested for 2006 were markedly less than reported 2004 and 2005 amounts. The decrease may be attributed to under reporting. The Department plans to investigate the current process to determine if there was underreporting and if so at what rate.

III. Great Lakes Fish Harvest

Commercial Fish Harvest:

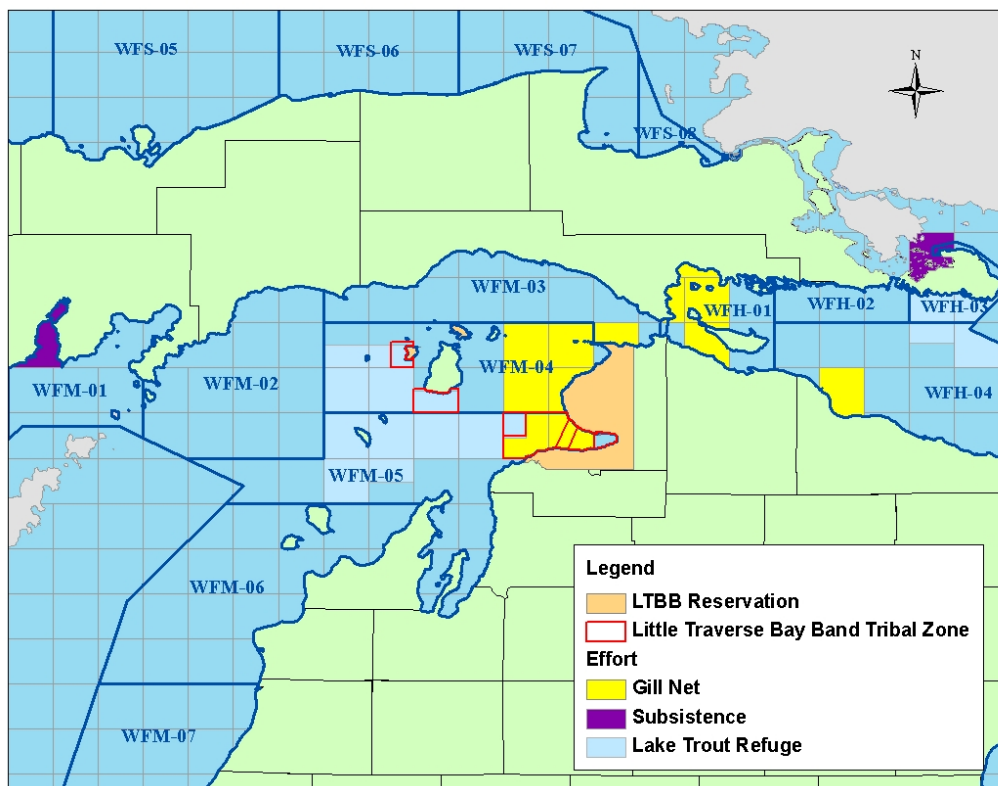
Properly licensed tribal members may commercially fish with either trap nets (impoundment net) or gill nets, subject to the rules and regulations of the negotiated 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree. In 2006 LTBB had nine small-boat gill-net operations. No trap-net operations were active in 2006. Gill-net effort was reported from three Lake Michigan management units and two Lake Huron units in 2006. Sixty five percent of the gill-net effort reported by LTBB fishermen occurred in the waters adjacent to the LTBB Reservation, with



the remainder occurring in the inter-tribal waters of northern Lake Huron (see map above).

A substantial portion of the gill-net harvest in 2006 was attributable to commercial captains who participated in the *LTBB Leased Small Boat Program*. The LTBB NRC and NRD began leasing small commercial fishing boats (free of charge) to eligible LTBB tribal members in 2002. In 2006 the department leased two 20 ft. Lund boats. The harvest from these fisherman accounted for 38% of the LTBB commercial lake trout harvest, 64% of the LTBB commercial whitefish harvest, and 58% of the LTBB total commercial harvest.

In 2006, nine active LTBB commercial gill-net fishermen reported a harvest of 21,301 lb. of lake trout and 70,244 lb. of lake whitefish. The whitefish gill-net harvest increased approximately 78% from 2005, primarily due to an increase in effort in northern Lake Huron. In Lake Michigan management units WFM04 and WFM05, whitefish harvest increased slightly and lake trout harvest decreased from 2005 levels (see graph, below). Approximately 56% of the whitefish gill-net harvest came from Lake Michigan management unit WFM04, while 10% came from Lake Michigan management unit WFM05. In 2006, 34% of the whitefish harvested in the gill-net fishery came from northern Lake Huron (compared with less than 1% in 2005). In contrast, but consistent with proceeding years, the majority (59%) of lake trout harvested in the 2006 gill-net fishery came from Lake Michigan unit WFM05. Twenty-four percent of the lake trout harvest in 2006 came from Lake Michigan management unit WFM04 while 16% came from northern Lake Huron.



Subsistence Fish Harvest:

Tribal members interested in fishing the Ceded waters of the Great Lakes for subsistence must follow the State of Michigan hook and line regulations or obtain a Great Lakes subsistence license from the LTBB Natural Resources Department. When fishing under the state rules and regulations, the tribal member need only have his/her Tribal enrollment card. He/she does not

have to obtain a state license. The Great Lakes subsistence license, available through the LTBB NRD, allows a tribal member to harvest up to 100 lbs of fish per day via gill net, impoundment net, hook and line, or spear. Subsistence gill-netting is limited to one (1) net of three hundred (300') feet or less per vessel per day. Tribal members interested in subsistence gill-netting in the Ceded waters of the Great Lakes are required to obtain a permit in addition to their subsistence license. Subsistence license holders are also required to submit monthly catch reports each and every month during the term of their license, regardless of whether they have fished or not. Subsistence fishermen may have seasonal or geographic restrictions that they must adhere to depending on the time of year and location in which they wish to fish. Please refer to the 2000 Great Lakes Consent Decree Section XII for more detail.

In 2006, nine (9) LTBB tribal members obtained subsistence fishing licenses, with three (3) reporting harvest. One gill-net permit was issued in 2006. The majority of the effort occurred in Little Bay de Noc, where Tribal members reported using hooks and line, spears, and gill nets. A smaller amount of effort, using hook and line, occurred north of Drummond Island. Herring, yellow perch, and walleye were the primary species targeted by subsistence fishers on the Great Lakes.

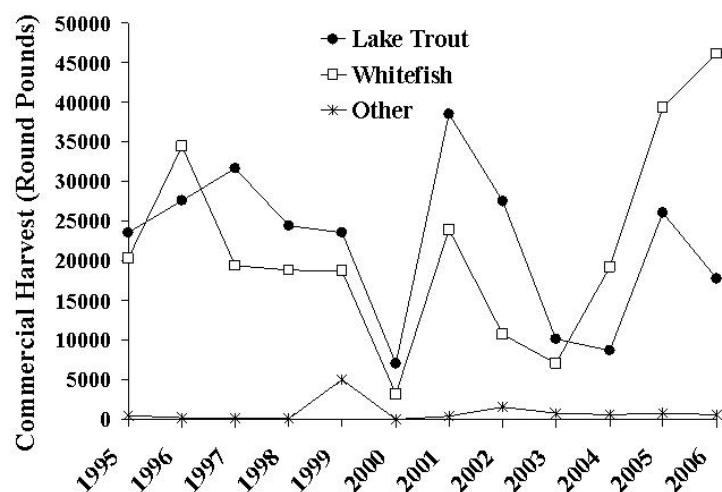
IV. Future Trends

The number of tribal members who are actively exercising their treaty reserved rights by obtaining and using LTBB licenses continues to grow. The number of licenses issued has increased by 122% since 1999, the first year inland licenses were issued. On average 28% of the license holders annually since 2003 were first time license holders. The department expects the number of license holders to continue to grow as more tribal members move into the area and as more tribal members become familiar with tribal regulations and the process for obtaining a tribal license.

LTBB reported deer harvest in 2006 decreased to a level near the 2004 level. However, the number of LTBB licensed deer hunters also increased for the eighth consecutive year.

There was a marked increase in commercial fish harvest on the Great Lakes. Commercial captains' licenses have remained about the same averaging 14 per year. However, the overall tribal commercial harvest has increased 633% since the all time low of 10,182 lbs. in 2000. The increase in harvest coincides with development and implementation of the LTBB

LTBB Large Mesh Gill Net
Commercial Harvest in WFM04 & WFM05



Natural Resource Commission (NRC) fishing assistance programs, the LTBB Commercial Net Program, the LTBB Leased Small Boat Program and the LTBB Commercial Fisher Small Grant Program appearing to indicate that the programs have been successful in helping commercial fisherman increase their skill and productivity levels as they enter in the commercial fishing business. Most of all the participants in the LTBB Small Boat Program had little or no experience prior to entering the program.

Overall it appears that tribal members are exercising their rights in a wide range of ways not only limited to deer hunting but ranging from berry picking and mushroom gathering to inland fishing and migratory bird hunting. The Department recognizes that there are some obstacles to accurately calculating harvest. The overall tag return for 2006 was quite low. The Department will strive to increase accuracy in reported harvest by increasing the percent of tag returns to near 80% and by using the annual surveys to verify and increase confidence levels. This will allow the Department to more accurately determine the membership's harvest of species requiring tags (deer, turkey, furbearers). The department will continue to work toward increasing those rates. Harvest estimates for all other resources gathered, hunted or fished will continue to be developed from commercial catch reports and the annual user surveys.

APPENDIX A.

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians License Holder Survey

This survey pertains to the 2005 hunting and fishing season. Please answer the questions by circling and filling in the blank. _____

- 1) What is your LTBB Inland Hunting and Fishing Number_____

- 2) Did you fish any inland lakes or streams under your Tribal License? Y ☐
N ☐

- 3) If you fished, please complete table:

Species	Walleye	Bass	Bluegill	Perch	Crappie	Rock Bass	Catfish	Muskellunge	Pike
Total # Fish Harvested									

Species	Burbot	Sucker	Whitefish	Smelt	Trout	Lake Trout	Salmon
Total # Fish Harvested					Brook-Brown-Rainbow-		

- 4) If you fished, then what COUNTY did you fish in most frequently? _____

- 5) Did you fish with a Spear in any lakes or streams? Y ☐
N ☐

- 6) If you DID fish with a Spear please complete table:

Species						
Total # Harvested						

- 7) Did you Hunt under your Tribal License? Y ☐
N ☐

- 8) If you HUNTED please complete table:

Species	Deer	Pheasant	Turkey	Grouse	Squirrel	Ducks or Geese	Rabbit
Total # Harvested							

Species	Coyote	Bobcat	Fox	Bear	Raccoon	Elk	Woodcock	Other
Total # Harvested								

- 9) If you HUNTED, then WHAT COUNTY did you hunt in MOST FREQUENTLY? _____

- 10) If you harvested any DEER or TURKEY please complete table:

	County Harvested	Male or Female	On Reservation Yes or No
DEER			

Harvested				
-----------	--	--	--	--

16) Do you feel you should be able to hunt deer on the LTBB Reservation while using some type of bait? Y/N

17) Do you feel the Tribes should authorize a bear harvest? Y/N

Comments:_____

18) Do you feel the Tribes should authorize an elk harvest? Y/N

Comments:_____

19) Do you feel the Tribes should authorize a moose harvest? Y/N

Comments:_____

20) Do you feel that wolves should be allowed to live in the Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan if they should naturally migrate into the area? Y/N

Comments:_____

21) You were helped in a timely fashion. (circle one).

strongly agree

some what agree

agree

disagree

22) The demeanor of the staff person who assisted you was pleasant and courteous (circle one).

strongly agree

some what agree

agree

disagree

23) Please list any requests, comments or suggestions you may have for the Natural Resource Commission or Natural Resource Department:_____
